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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/758,753

01/15/2004

Satish Sundar

8279/DSM/BCVD/JW

6413

44182

7590

11/06/2006

PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, LLP

APPLIED MATERIALS INC

595 SHREWSBURY AVE

SUITE 100

SHREWSBURY, NJ 07702

EXAMINER

KEENAN, JAMES W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3652

DATE MAILED: 11/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Interview Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/758,753	SUNDAR ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	James Keenan	3652	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

- (1) James Keenan. (3) _____
 (2) Keith Tabaoda. (4) _____

Date of Interview: 02 November 2006.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
 c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.
 If Yes, brief description: _____

Claim(s) discussed: 23.

Identification of prior art discussed: Sundar et al, Smith et al, of record.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☒ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

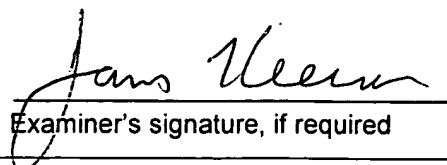
Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Applicant faxed a proposed amendment (copy attached). It was decided that in order for the additional recitation of "during substrate transfer" to be effective in overcoming the 102 rejection, the gripper assembly would need to be set forth as having the functionality of transferring substrates. The examiner indicated that this would not necessarily have any effect on the 103 rejection.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

JAMES KEENAN
 PRIMARY EXAMINER

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


 Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

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To: Examiner, James Keenan
Fax. No. 571-273-6925

Re: Patent Application Serial No. 10/758,753
purposed Claim Amendment in response to office action dated 8-14-06

From: Keith P. TABOADA
Attorney Reg. No. 45,150
(732) 530-9404
Patterson & Sheridan, LLP

Patent Application Serial No. 10/758,753
APPM/8279 Pending claims

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) A system for processing semiconductor substrates comprising:

- at a chamber;
- a robot disposed within the chamber and having an end effector; and
- a gripper assembly coupled to the robot, the gripper assembly being mechanically actuatable by a structure remote from the robot and end effector during substrate transfer.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the gripper assembly comprises:

- at least two rotatable jaws, one jaw being positioned laterally on either side of the robot end effector;
- a mounting bracket adapted for mounting each of the at least two jaws to a portion of the robot end effector; and
- a biasing member disposed between each of the at least two jaws and the mounting brackets, adapted for urging the at least two jaws to rotate about an axis substantially normal to the robot end effector.

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25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein each of the at least two jaws comprises:

a base portion coupled directly to the mounting bracket, the base portion having a first end and a second end;

an arm coupled at a first end to the first end of the base portion and extending outwardly therefrom;

a striker coupled to the second end of the base portion and extending therefrom at an angle substantially normal to the base portion; and

a gripper coupled to a second end of the arm.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 25, wherein the ~~jaw is~~ jaws are adapted to rotate outward relative to the robot end effector upon contact of the striker with the structure remote from the robot.

27. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the gripper comprises:

a shaft having a first end coupled to the second end of the arm and extending outwardly therefrom at an angle substantially normal to the arm; and

a disk supported for rotation upon a second end of the shaft.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27 further comprising:

a bearing disposed between the shaft and disk.

29. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the striker comprises:

a shaft projecting from the base portion at an angle substantially normal to the base portion; and

a sleeve coupled to the shaft and adapted to rotate about a longitudinal axis of the shaft.

30. (Original) The system of claim 29 further comprising:

a bearing disposed between the shaft and sleeve.

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31. (Original) The system of claim 21 further comprising:
a biasing member adapted to rotationally urge at least one of the jaws.
32. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the biasing member is at least one of a flat spring, a compression spring, a torsion spring, a gas spring, a magnet, a resilient material, a spring form, a linear actuator, a solenoid.
33. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the chamber further comprises:
at least one substrate transfer passage formed in the chamber; and
a slit valve adapted to selectively seal the transfer passage.
34. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 33~~ claim 23, wherein the structure for actuating the gripper is at least one of the chamber or a slit valve disposed in the chamber.
35. (Original) The system of claim 33, further comprising:
a striker plate positioned adjacent the transfer passage to engage the gripper assembly as the end effector is moved through the passage.
36. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 37~~ claim 35, wherein the striker plate is positionable along a direction defined by an axis of extension of the end effector through the passage.
37. (Original) The system of claim 36 further comprising:
a mounting block coupled to at least one of the chamber and slit valve, the block having a threaded hole for receiving a stud extending from the striker plate.
38. (Original) The system of claim 37 further comprising:
a locking mechanism for fixing the engagement of the stud and the threaded hole.

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39. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 23, wherein the gripper assembly further comprises:

a rotatable jaw comprising:

a base portion having a first end and a second end, the base portion pivotably coupled to a mounting bracket between the first and second ends, the mounting bracket adapted for mounting to a portion of the transfer robot; and

an arm extending from the first end of the base portion to a gripper adapted to contact an edge of the substrate;

~~a mounting bracket pivotably coupled to the base portion between the first and second ends, the mounting bracket adapted for mounting to a portion of the transfer robot; and~~

a biasing member disposed between the jaw and the mounting bracket, the biasing member urging the jaw to rotate about an axis substantially normal to the jaw.

40. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 39, further comprising:

a striker coupled to the second end of the base portion and extending therefrom at an angle substantially normal to the base portion;

41. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 40, wherein the jaw is adapted to rotate upon contact of the striker with the remote structure.

42. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 39, wherein the jaw further comprises:

a pivot hole disposed through the first end of the base portion; and

a pin disposed through the pivot hole and coupling the jaw to the mounting bracket.

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43. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 40, wherein the gripper comprises:
- a shaft having a first end coupled to the arm; and
 - a disk supported for rotation upon a second end of the shaft.
44. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 43, wherein a bearing is disposed between the shaft and the disk.
45. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 40, wherein the striker comprises:
- a shaft projecting from the base portion at an angle substantially normal to the base portion; and
 - a sleeve coupled to the shaft and adapted to rotate about a longitudinal axis of the shaft.
46. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 45, wherein a bearing is disposed between the shaft and the sleeve.
47. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 39, wherein the amount of the angular displacement of the jaw is adjustable.
48. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 47, wherein the mounting bracket further comprises:
- a first pin extending outwardly from the mounting bracket; and
 - a second pin extending outwardly from the mounting bracket, the jaw separating the first and second pins, wherein a position of at least ~~on~~ one of the pins is adjustable to limit the displacement of the jaw.
49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 39, wherein the biasing member is at least one of a flat spring, a compression spring, a torsion spring, a

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gas spring, a magnet, a resilient material, a spring form, a linear actuator, a solenoid.

50. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the gripper assembly further comprises:

at least two rotatable jaws coupled to opposite sides of the end effector, wherein each jaw is mechanically actuatable by the structure remote from the robot and end effector.

51. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein each jaw comprises:

a base portion adapted for rotation about an axis substantially normal to a direction of extension of the end effector, the base portion having a first end and a second end; and

an arm extending from the first end of the base portion to a gripper adapted to contact an edge of the substrate.

52. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, further comprising:

a mounting bracket adapted for mounting at least a first jaw of the jaws to the robot; and

a biasing member disposed between the first jaw and the mounting bracket, and urging the jaw to rotate about an axis substantially normal to a direction of extension of the end effector.

53. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein each jaw further comprises:

a striker coupled to the second end of the base portion and extending therefrom at an angle substantially normal to the base portion.

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54. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 53, wherein each jaw is adapted to rotate outward relative to the robot end effector upon contact of the striker with the structure remote from the robot and end effector.

55. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 51, wherein the each jaw further comprises:

a pivot hole disposed through the first end of the base portion; and

a pin disposed through the pivot hole and coupling the jaw to the mounting bracket.

56. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, wherein each gripper further comprises:

a shaft having a first end coupled to the arm; and

a disk supported for rotation upon a second end of the shaft.

57. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein a bearing is disposed between the shaft and the disk.

58. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 53, wherein the striker comprises:

a shaft projecting from the base portion at an angle substantially normal to the base portion; and

a sleeve coupled to the shaft and adapted to rotate about a longitudinal axis of the shaft.

59. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 50, wherein the amount of the angular displacement of the jaws are is adjustable.

60. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50 further comprising:

a biasing member adapted to rotationally urge at least one of the jaws, wherein the biasing member is at least one of a flat spring, a compression spring,

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a torsion spring, a gas spring, a magnet, a resilient material, a spring form, a linear actuator, a solenoid.